

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 /052 W

----- 070534

R 010955Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4362

INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISLAMABAD 2190

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION ISLAMABAD INFO KARACHI FROM LAHORE

MAR 01 REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO

QUOTE

LAHORE 0265

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PK, IR

SUBJECT: SHAH-IN-SHAH TO VISIT LAHORE -- BUT NO AWAMI MELA

REF: A. LAHORE 0120

B. ISLAMABAD 1022

C. LAHORE 0153

1. REFTELS REPORTED POSSIBLE VISIT BY SHAH OF IRAN TO PAKISTAN IN MARCH INCLUDING STOP IN LAHORE SUPPOSEDLY TO ATTEND PUNJAB AWAMI MELA (NEE LAHORE HORSE SHOW). PER REFTEL C, IRANIAN CONSUL GENERAL PEDRAM PROMISED TO LET ME KNOW ANY DEFINITIVE WORD ON SUBJECT.

2. PEDRAM INFORMED ME BY PHONE FEBRUARY 28 -- CONFIDENTIALLY FOR TIME BEING -- THAT SHAH NOW SCHEDULED TO VISIT LAHORE ARRIVING NOON MARCH 9 AND DEPARTING NOON MARCH 10. PEDRAM PROFESSED NOT TO KNOW PROGRAM BUT THOUGHT IT WOULD INCLUDE USUAL CIVIC RECEPTION AT SHALIMAR GARDENS AND PERHAPS HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIAL DINNER AT LAHORE FORT. HE ADDED THAT

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IRANIAN AMBASSADOR ZELLI AND GENERAL RAZA OF MFA WERE

EXPECTED HERE FEBRUARY 29 TO WORK OUT DETAILS.

3. ONLY SPECIFIC PUBLIC REFERENCE WE HAVE SEEN SO FAR HAS BEEN STAFF REPORTER STORY IN KARACHI MORNING NEWS FEBRUARY 25 THAT SHAH EXPECTED ARRIVE IN PAKISTAN MARCH 7 AND LIKELY TO VISIT ISLAMABAD AND LARKANA. LAHORE PRESS, HOWEVER, HAS REPEATEDLY SPECULATED THAT UNNAMED STATE VISITOR OR VISITORS WOULD GRACE AWAMI MELA AND CITY SOMETIME IN MARCH.

4. RE MELA, AS OF END OF FEBRUARY GOPUNJAB HAD NOT ANNOUNCED DATES DESPITE ADVANCE PROMOTIONAL ADVERTISING (DATELESS) AND REPEATED ASSURANCES BY MELA SECRETARIAT THAT COMMITTEE WAS PREPARING FOR EVENT TO TAKE PLACE SOMETIME IN MARCH. WE SURPRISED TO LEARN FROM MELA DEPUTY DIRECTOR COL. ANSARI BY PHONE MARCH 1, HOWEVER, THAT THIS YEAR'S MELA HAS NOW BEEN "CANCELLED" (NOT JUST POSTPONED) WITHOUT EXPLANATION.

5. COMMENT: GOP AND GOI WOULD APPEAR TO HAVE WORKED OUT PROTOCOL MODALITIES FOR VISIT BY SHAH, WHICH WE ASSUME IS TO BE SOMETHING LESS THAN STATE VISIT. SINCE SHAH HAS SEEN MUGHAL MONUMENTS OF LAHORE BEFORE, WE SUSPECT REASON FOR RETURN HERE IS OPPORTUNITY FOR SUITABLE CULTURAL EXTRAVAGANZA. THEREFORE, WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF SHAH WERE TREATED TO SPECIAL "MIN-MELA," AS GOVERNOR ABBASI FOREWAW (REFTEL A) MONTH AGO AND SUGGESTED TO ME AGAIN LAST WEEK.

6. ISLAMABAD REPEAT TEHRAN, DEPARTMENT AS DESIRED.
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